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TO : Department of State **RECEIVED**
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RS/AN
ANALYSIS BRANCH

FROM : AmConsul NASSAU

DATE: November 25, 1971

SUBJECT : Bahamas Territorial Waters

REF : Nassau 0821 **ARA**

2017

As reported in the referenced telegram, Deputy Prime Minister Arthur D. Hanna in a speech before the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Convention in October indicated that on independence the Government would have to reconsider the boundaries of its territorial waters and that for a country made up of a number of islands such as the Bahamas the territorial waters limits should be considered to encircle the entire archipelago. Later in the convention PLP Senator Lochinvar Lockhart moved a resolution which was adopted unanimously that the Government continue to work through the proper channels with the view of extending the 12-mile limit around the Bahamas for the purpose of protecting the Bahamian fishing industry.

Senator Lockhart declared to the assembled PLP delegates, "Our Government should put the necessary machinery in motion whereby our 12-mile limit begins from the 50 or 100 fathom curve surrounding the entire Bahamian islands." He insisted on the importance of this move to the development of the Bahamas since he visualized that within a short time the fishing industry could be developed to the point where it would be second only to tourism as the backbone of the Bahamian economy.

Comment: These proposals have not been discussed by Government members in the House of Assembly but as yet have been only part of the hoop-la of the party convention.

SPEAR

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